However, details of installed capacity are not available.

It is estimated that the present demand for Nitrocellulose required by explosives, ink lacquers, paints industries etc., is around 1000 tonnes per annum.

Denotification of Haldia as a Backward area

@2608. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered for denotification of Haldia as a backward area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for taking the decision with retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Industrial undertakings established in Blocks|Taluks etc. where investments had exceeded Rs. 30 crores as on 31-3-1983 are not eligible for Central subsidy and concessional finance. However, concessional finance facilities are available to SSI units. Total number of such blocks is 71, Sutahata-I Block in Midnapur district (perhaps the reference of Hon'ble Member is to this Block) and other 7 blocks in West Bengal fall in this category.

Production and Consumption of Liquor in Country

@@2509. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production and consumption of liquor in the country;

(b) whether the licensed capacity of liquor is sufficient to meet the domestic demand; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for allowing import of foreign liquor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) As per the assessment made at the meeting of Central Molasses Board held on 2.1.1987, the production of alcohol during the current alcohol year 1986-87 (December 1986-November, 1987) was estimated at 6900 lakh litres which was almost equal to the demand for both industrial and potable use. According to the recent indications, however, the production is likely to be somewhat more than the original assessment.

(b) The distillation capacity in the country is more than adequate for meeting the indigenous demand of alcohol.

(c) During last two years, on account of lower production of sugarcane, the availability of molasses was not adequate to meet the indigenous requirement of alcohol. Duty free import of alcohol (denatured) was, therefore, allowed to meet the requirements of the alcohol-based chemical industries only. However, during the current alcohol year no imports have been allowed.

Advantages of using CNG

2610. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 192 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1987 and state:

(a) what will be the advantages in using Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in place of petrol or diesel oil;

@Previously Unstarred Question 2224 transferred from the 13th August, 1987.

@@Previously unstarred Question 2153 transferred from the 13th August, 1987.

(b) what is the cost of conversion of a truck and the saving in terms of money; and

(c) apart from saving of liquid fuels, whether the use of CNG contributes to lesser pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) and (c) Use of gas could be better from environmental point of view compared to conventional liquid fuels. To the extentidomestic gas is used, this could also conserve foreign exchange as crude oil is imported.

(b) ONGC have estimated the cost of conversion of a diesel-driven truck to CNG-driven, at about Rs. 10,000/-. The savings likely to arise with the switch over to CNG can be estimated only after the results of the experiment are finalised.

Malpractices by LPG Dealers and Petrol Pumps in Delhi

2611. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding corruption, rude behaviour, short supply, adulteration, irregularities and other malpractices against some petrol pumps and LPG dealers of the Delhi during 1st January, 1984 to 31st July, 1987;

(b) whether Government have received a number of complaints against petrol dealer 'Ridge View Service Station' Shanker Road, near Yoga Ashram New Delhi-110001 and others;

(c) whether General Manager of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Janpath, New Delhi has also received the copies of the complaints;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what specific steps have been taken to curb such malpractices; and

(f) what are the names and details of petrol pumps cancelled/suspended/discontinued in Delhi during 1st January, 1985 to 31st July, 1987 and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir. Such complaints are received from time to time by Government and the oil companies.

(b) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation received one complaint for mechanical failure of the dispensing pumps in 1985 and the complaints for rude behaviour in 1986 against this petrol pump dealer. While in the first case the dispensing pumps were rectified, in the second case, warning letters were issued and the dealer was also cautioned.

A complaint dated June 29, 1987 was received from a resident in Karol Bagh intimating short delivery of petrol and misbehaviour by the staff of this dealer. The matter was, however, subsequently sorted out between the dealer and the complainant and the complaint was withdrawn by the complainant on July 1, 1987. Copies of the original complaint and the letter withdrawing the same were also endorsed to the General Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. New Delhi.

(e) The Oil Industry has evolved Marketing Discipline Guidelines, and in accordance with the provisions contained therein, the Oil Companies conduct regular and random inspections of the retail outlets and take appropriate punitive action ranging from suspension of supplies to termination of dealerships, etc., against the erring dealers, if malpractices like short delivery, overcharging, adulteration, etc., are detected/proved. Besides, State Government/Union Territory Admn. authorities also carry out occasional raids on the